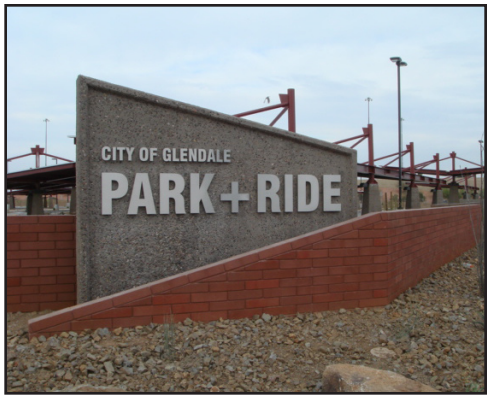
Yucca Weekly Update

Councilmember Joyce Clark - City of Glendale, Arizona

Yucca District - where Glendale's past, present and future meet. **December 19, 2008**



The Spirit of Giving Weekend. Join us for the Spirit of Giving Holiday Lighting Weekend from 6-10 p.m., December 19 & 20 at Murphy Park in Downtown Glendale. The holidays are a time of generosity, so what could be better than a whole weekend recognizing those who give back to our community? It'll do your heart good to get into the spirit of giving by paying tribute to those selfless organizations who make our community a better place to live. Free admission and free parking mean you can bring the whole family and not break the bank! And don't forget to stop by and visit Santa Claus! Bring your camera, or have Santa's helper snap one for a small fee. For more information, click here or call (623) 930-2299.

Glendale's first Crisis Response Dog. Glendale Fire Department Crisis Response (CR) Program has recently entered its seventh year of service in the community and has made an important addition to the team. The team of crisis response volunteers welcomes Topaz, the first crisis response dog to work with a fire department.

The year and a half old yellow lab has been through extensive training and can actually sense when people are frightened or grieving. Topaz is used as a tool for communication. "He actually helps build a therapeutic bridge between the customer and the crisis interventionist," said Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Human Services Division Manager. "He helps lighten the mood, and brings a calming effect to a situation that may seem out of control". Read more.

Engineering Excellence. Congratulations to the Glendale Engineering Department for being honored at the 28th Annual Engineering Excellence Awards for **three** city projects!

The Glendale Oasis Water Campus and the Glendale Park and Ride both received Grand Awards and the Glendale Downtown Pedestrian Enhancement project received an Honor Award.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Arizona recognized these projects because they not only demonstrate excellence in engineering, but they also reflect innovative and environmentally-friendly applications.

A "Grand Award" for the **Glendale Oasis Water Campus** recognized the combination of cutting-edge and traditional treatment technologies that essentially enhances the city's water quality goals, including particulate removal, taste and odor control. The second "Grand Award" for the **Glendale Park and Ride** showcased the benefits of using pervious concrete in parking areas, which helped set new principals for a user-friendly, environmentally-sensitive park & ride facility. Its "green" features will help curb the urban heat island effect.

An Honor Award for the **Downtown Pedestrian Enhancement Project** acknowledged its unique design for refurbishing 65-square blocks into a city gateway entrance feature.

Register Now for Recreation Classes. The Glendale Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registration for over 140 different classes available to all ages for its winter session. Classes are available for youth, teen and adults in the areas of culinary arts, fine arts, languages, music, dance, computers, personal development, financial/business and exercise/sports.

Recreational classes increase health, reduce stress, build social networks, increase personal and business skills, provide motor-skill development, provide self-improvement and build cultural awareness.

The classes are held throughout Glendale at a variety of times and days. Most classes will begin the week of January 12 and are offered as one-day or for several weeks. Class prices vary.

Click here to download the Glendale Parks & Recreation Quarterly magazine or call (623) 930-4613 for more information.

Around Town

An Afternoon of Classical Cello. Join us for "An Afternoon of Classical Cello" at 2 p.m., Sunday, December 21at Foothills Branch Library, 19055 N. 57th Avenue. Enjoy relaxing melodies performed by cellist Stephen Chavez. For more information, call (623) 930-3846.

Holiday Closure. City of Glendale offices and all three libraries will be closed at noon on Wednesday, December 24 for Christmas Eve and on Thursday, Dec. 25th in observance of Christmas. For information on holiday changes in Sanitation services click here.

Fiesta Bowl events in Glendale. Now in its third year in Glendale, the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 5 will match up two of college football's greatest teams, the Ohio State University Buckeyes and the University of Texas Longhorns. Along with the gridiron action, the game brings a multitude of festivities that Glendale residents can enjoy.

Some of these events, which are all open to the public, are listed below. For details on these events, call (480) 350-0911. Some events charge admission. Read more.

- **Fiesta Bowl Youth Football Clinic**
  Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
  Date: December 27, 2008
  Location: Glendale Youth Sports Complex (adjacent to University of Phoenix Stadium)
- **31st Annual Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Fiesta Bowl National Band Championship presented by University of Phoenix**
  Time: Preliminaries – 11:00 a.m., Finals – 6:30 p.m.
  Date: Thursday, January 1, 2009
  Location: University of Phoenix Stadium
- **Glendale's Fiesta Bowl Gridiron Jam**
  Time: 4 – 10 p.m.
  Date: Saturday, January 3, 2009
  Location: Downtown Glendale

2009 State of the Business Community Address. Business owners and residents are invited to attend Mayor Elaine Scruggs' 2009 State of the Business Community Address at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Drive.

Also speaking at the luncheon will be Arizona Cardinals President Michael Bidwill. The football executive is the new chairman of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, which works to attract quality businesses to the region.

The theme of the mayor's speech will be "Strong Cities Make A Strong State." Tickets are $60 for individuals and $600 for a corporate table of 10. For ticket information, call the Glendale Chamber of Commerce at (623) 937-4754.

Glendale Glitter & Glow Block Party. Dozens of hot air balloons will cast a warm glow over Historic Downtown Glendale as the city says farewell to its annual holiday light display on Saturday, Jan. 19, 4-11 p.m. The event will showcase dozens of colorful hot air balloons, live bands and street performers under the twinkling canopy of the Glendale Glitters holiday light display. Visitors will be able to walk the streets and actually touch the tethered balloons, which pilots will fire up to glow throughout the evening.

This year, the "After Glow," will feature an extra hour of entertainment, food and beverages until 11 p.m. for those who aren't ready to end the fun. Free parking shuttles will be available from 3:30 until 11:30 p.m. for attendees, from Glendale Community College, located at 59th and Olive avenues. For more information, click here or call (623) 930-2299.

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